

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

I think most other Americans feel as I do that this year's television coverage of politics is ugly. I want to know about issues not smears and unsubstantiated rumors about candidates.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. People need to be informed and the best way to do that is locally.

At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming.

Sincerely,

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